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Birmingham Background

• Local History in Story and Picture •

RHODA M. STARR

Superintendent Birmingham Schools 1911-1915

Schools Were Hitched to a Starr

Only woman ever to serve as superintendent of Birmingham school system was Rhoda M. Starr (1911-1915).

1915).

Living on a farm near the corner of 13 Mile and Crooks road, Rhoda, her sisters and brothers attended Birmingham high school (now called Hill school).

She graduated in the class of 1902 and within a few years was teaching in the school from which she grad-uated. In 1910 she served as principal under superin-tendent S. M. Dudley.

WHEN DUDLEY LEFT the following 'year, Rhoda was appointed superintendent. Since Rhoda already had been hired, the village school board ignored a resolution presented by W. A. Burtraw in July 1913 and passed by the 53 voters attending), that the school board engage a male superintendent.

She continued as superintendent until June 1915 when she resigned to take a position at Northwestern high school, Detroit. Clarence Vilet, still a resident of Birmingham, came to take her place.

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To the Editor

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